



4184-79

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

TITLE: Pre-testing of Evaluation Data Collection Activities

OMB No.: 0970-0355

DESCRIPTION: The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to request approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew a generic clearance to pre-test data collection instruments with more than nine participants to identify and resolve any question or procedural problems in survey administration.

OPRE studies ACF programs, and the populations they serve, through rigorous research and evaluation projects. These include evaluations of existing programs, evaluations of innovative approaches to helping low-income children and families, research syntheses and descriptive and exploratory studies. To improve the development of its research and evaluation surveys, OPRE uses the pre-testing of evaluation surveys generic clearance to employ a variety

of techniques including cognitive and usability laboratory and field techniques, behavior coding, exploratory interviews, respondent debriefing questionnaires, split sample experiments, focus groups, and pilot studies/pre-tests. These activities allow OPRE to identify if and when a survey may be simplified for respondents, respondent burden may be reduced, and other possible improvements.

Following standard OMB requirements, OPRE will submit a change request for each individual data collection activity under this generic clearance. Each request will include the individual instrument(s), a justification specific to the individual information collection, and any supplementary documents. OMB should review within 10 days of receiving each change request.

The information collected in this effort will not be the primary subject of any published ACF reports; however, information may be made public through methodological appendices or footnotes, reports on instrument development, instrument user guides, descriptions of respondent behavior, and other publications or presentations describing findings of methodological interest. When necessary, results will be labeled as exploratory in nature. The results of this pre-testing research may be

prepared for presentation at professional meetings or publication in professional journals.

RESPONDENTS: Participants in ACF programs being evaluated; participants in ACF demonstrations; recipients of ACF Grants and individuals served by ACF Grantees; comparison group members; and other relevant populations, such as individuals at risk of needing ACF services.

#### ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Total Number of Respondents	Number of Responses Per Respondent	Average Burden Hours Per Response	Total Burden hours
Survey development field tests, respondent debriefing questionnaires, cognitive interviews, split sample experiments, focus groups	3,825	1	1	3,825

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Copies of the proposed collection may be obtained by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201, Attn: OPRE Reports Clearance Officer. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection. E-mail address: [OPREinfocollection@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:OPREinfocollection@acf.hhs.gov).

OMB COMMENT: OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the Federal Register.

Therefore, a comment is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the following:

Office of Management and Budget  
Paperwork Reduction Project  
Email: OIRA\_SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV  
Attn: Desk Officer for the Administration  
for Children and Families

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Mary Jones,  
ACF/OPRE Certifying  
Officer.

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